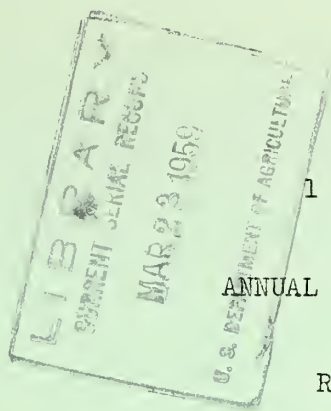


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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REPORT

C A S C S

February 5 - 6, 1959

HOTEL VERMONT

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

REPORT OF ANNUAL ASC CONFERENCE

Vermont State and County Committeemen, County Office Managers,
County Agents, and Guests

Held at Hotel Vermont, Burlington, Vermont - February 5 and 6, 1959

Foreword

This report presents the program, talks, and committee reports of the 1959 Annual ASC Conference. Those attending the two-day conference, working in two separate committees, considered the ideas and wishes of local farmers in the State as brought out at the recent series of county program planning meetings. Their recommendations will serve as a guide in planning the work of the Vermont Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office during the coming year.

The recommendations included in this report are those which were approved by the entire conference. The recommendations relating to the 1960 ACP were reviewed and considered by the Vermont State ASC Committee in a joint meeting with State representatives of other agricultural agencies on February 25, and formed the basis of the State Committee's recommendations to the Washington Office.

At this same joint meeting the group also reviewed the conference recommendations regarding the Conservation Reserve Program. From this discussion the State Committee formulated their recommendations to the Washington Office for the 1960 **CRP**.

It was a pleasure to have H. L. Manwaring, Deputy Administrator of Production Adjustment for CSS, as our guest speaker at the banquet, for we enjoyed renewing "auld acquaintance."

We appreciate very much the wholehearted cooperation of all who helped in any way to make our 1959 ASC Conference a success.

State ASC Committee

Charles L. Winslow, Sr., Chairman
Edson E. Gifford, Vice Chairman
Howard A. Foster, Member
Robert P. Davison, Ex Officio

State ASC Office

A. F. Heald, State Administrative Officer
C. B. Doane, Fieldman
G. T. Hart, Fieldman

CONFERENCE THEME

THE CHALLENGE

As committeemen, we have a trust in the administration of assigned agricultural programs. We have an opportunity to help our country build for the future while maintaining the high standard of living we have today.

This conference is called to help you think through the best possible use of the Agricultural Conservation and Conservation Reserve Programs in Vermont. Our record is good, but it can be improved. Be sure to do your part.

PROGRAM

1959 STATE ASC CONFERENCE

February 5 - 6, 1959

HOTEL VERMONT, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

First Day

9:00 a.m. Register, get name tags and banquet
to tickets at Conference Registration
10:00 a.m. Desk in Lobby

Conference Opened by
Edson E. Gifford, Presiding

10:00 a.m. Conference Goals C. L. Winslow, Sr.,
Chairman, State
ASC Committee

10:15 a.m. The Vermont Farm Bureau Looks at
Conservation Programs Keith Wallace,
Pres., Vermont
State Farm Bureau

11:15 a.m. Conservation and Land Use Trends H. W. Soule,
Area Director (NE)
CSS

Questions and Discussion

12:00 noon Committee Assignments Edson E. Gifford
State Committeeman

A. ACP Program Planning -
Roof Garden

B. CRP Program Planning -
Conference Room

C. County Office Managers' Session
on Administration -
Apple Orchard

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Conference
to Committee
5:00 p.m. Meetings

CONFERENCE BANQUET

February 5, 1959

6:30 p.m.

Main Dining Room

Toastmaster - R. P. Davison

PROGRAM

Group Singing - Led by Stuart Newton with
Mrs. Newton at the piano

Recognition

Guest Speaker - H. L. Manwaring
Deputy Administrator,
Production Adjustment,
CSS

Solo - Stuart Newton

Awards

Second Day

Howard A. Foster, Presiding

9:00 a.m. The Banker Looks at ACP

Fortis Abbott,
Farm Representative,
Howard National Bank
and Trust Company

Discussion

9:30 a.m. Problems Faced by SCS in Handling
Technical Assignments under
ACP and CRP

L. J. Peet, State
Conservationist,
SCS

Discussion

10:00 a.m. What ACP Has Meant to the Green
Pastures Program in Vermont

Douglas Kitchel,
Past Pres., Vermont
Green Pastures
Council, Inc.

Discussion

Second Day (Continued)

10:30 a.m. Keeping Up To Date with the
Committeemen's Job

H. W. Soule
Area Director (NE)

Discussion

11:00 a.m. Obligating 1959 ACP Program Funds

A. F. Heald, State
Administrative
Officer

Discussion

12:00 noon Lunch

Charles L. Winslow, Sr., Presiding

1:15 p.m. Report of Committee on ACP
Program Planning

Edson E. Gifford
Chairman

Discussion - Changes - Adoption

2:15 p.m. Report of Committee on CRP
Program Planning

Howard A. Foster
Chairman

Discussion - Changes - Adoption

3:15 p.m. Nominations for State Committee

3:45 p.m. Adjourn

Conference Committee Assignments

I. ACP PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Edson E. Gifford, Chairman

Raymond Rowley, Vice Chairman

A. F. Heald, Secretary

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY AGENTS FROM</u>
Addison	Sedgewick Preston Robert Highter	
Bennington	Clyde Bryant E. W. Mattison	
Caledonia	George Ricker Roland Simpson	
Chittenden	G. N. Baldwin Raymond Rowley	Chittenden
Essex	Mrs. Mildred Hook	
Franklin	Stuart Newton Roland Gervais	Franklin
Grand Isle	Alan Kinney	
Lamoille	Lawrence Gregory	
Orange	Mrs. Liva Sinclair Walter Wheatley	
Orleans	Henry Dagesse	
Rutland	Roy Burroughs George Livak	Rutland
Washington	W. J. Bisson	
Windham	Myron Allen Arthur Bensenhaver	
Windsor	Matthew Watson	

II. CRP PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Howard A. Foster, Chairman

Norman Lowe, Vice Chairman

Charles B. Doane, Secretary

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY AGENTS FROM</u>
Addison	Wayne Fuller	Addison
Bennington	Robert Graf	
Caledonia	Norman Lowe Clarence Burrington	
Chittenden	Ray Collins	
Essex	Basil Hill Albert Young	
Franklin	Floyd Weld	
Grand Isle	Jay Haylett Chester Caswell	
Lamoille	Arthur Stancliff Ray Perkins	
Orange	Glenn Webster	
Orleans	Robert Kilborn Reginald LeBlanc	
Rutland	George Ridlon	
Washington	D. Drew Bisbee Everett Walbridge	
Windham	Robert Gaines	
Windsor	Raymond Farrar Wesley Young	Windsor

CONFERENCE GOALS

by Charles Winslow, Sr., Chairman, Vermont State ASC Committee
At the Annual ASC Conference
Hotel Vermont, Burlington, Vermont
February 5, 1959

I am glad of this opportunity to welcome you folks to our 1959 Annual ASC Conference. As your program points out, "As committeemen we have a trust in the administration of assigned agricultural programs. We have an opportunity to help our country build for the future while maintaining the high standard of living we have today. This conference is called to help you think through the best possible use of the Agricultural Conservation and Conservation Reserve Programs in Vermont. Our record is good but it can be improved. Be sure to do your part."

As most of you people know this meeting follows the meetings we have had in each Vermont county to get recommendations from our community committeemen and co-workers. These meetings were well-attended and we got a lot of discussion. It's up to you delegates at this conference to represent your area in making recommendations for the programs we are to administer.

I have been a farmer committeeman working with this program for many years. I am proud of our accomplishments and hope you are. I believe this farmer committee system is sound and can operate efficiently.

Now a few words to committee members.

For you who are serving on the ACP Program Planning Committee

I hope that you will take a good look at some of the changes that have been brought about, starting with the 1954 program. Make use of the changes that are good, and make recommendations to change those that are not working. Give a lot of weight to the recommendations from your community committeemen, because remember you are representing them and the farmers from your area at this meeting.

Conservation Reserve Program Planning Committee

This Conservation Reserve Program is an experiment. We have now had two years' experience in administering the program. We should be in a position to make some sound recommendations, for its further use in Vermont. Let's come up with the best possible ideas.

Office Managers

We have been fortunate in Vermont to have our office managers stay with us quite a while. This means they like their jobs and have been efficient. We realize that they have a big job to do. We hope that at their special session they will pitch in and help us attain an even higher standard.

Conclusion

In conclusion, let me say once again that the strength of our program lies in the action of you committeemen. Do your job well.

THE VERMONT FARM BUREAU LOOKS AT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Address by Keith Wallace, President
Vermont State Farm Bureau
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, February 5, 1959

A copy of Mr. Wallace's talk is not available, since he spoke extemporaneously.

However, some of the highlights were noted as follows:

Farm Bureau opinion is the composite thinking of its members.

The majority thinking of the members of the Vermont Farm Bureau is that the conservation programs as administered in Vermont are of great benefit to Vermont farmers and these programs should continue.

It is the responsibility of the Vermont Farm Bureau to bring Vermont thinking on farm issues to the National Farm Bureau and to do all it can to get these ideas adopted by the National Farm Bureau. However, once a stand is taken on an issue by the National Farm Bureau then each State Farm Bureau is expected to support this stand. States have a right to reject a National Farm Bureau policy by written request to the National Farm Bureau.

The Vermont Farm Bureau favors the ASC program with administration by State and county committees.

The Vermont State Farm Bureau favors the SCS program of technical assistance through SCD.

The Vermont Farm Bureau will support the National Farm Bureau stand of favoring the continuance of the CRP.

The Vermont Farm Bureau favors an improved Forest Taxation law that will encourage better woodland conservation.

In reply to a question put by Mr. Gay Baldwin of Hinesburg, Mr. Wallace said that he did not favor a cut in the appropriation for the Agricultural Conservation Program from 250 million to 100 million as proposed.

CONSERVATION AND LAND USE TRENDS

Address by Harris W. Soule, Area Director (NE)

Commodity Stabilization Service, USDA

at Vermont Annual ASC Conference

Burlington, Vermont, February 5-6, 1959

Mr. Chairman and friends. I was pleased when Al Heald invited me to attend your conference because of the opportunity it gives me to meet many old friends and make new ones. All interested in one objective - that is to promote the conservation of our soil and forest resources of our State. You all know as well as I do that Vermont is one of the foremost States in the Nation in promoting the conservation of our soil and forest resources. I also am sure that you recognize that the aggressive leadership in this field which Al Heald exerts has been a big influence in Vermont's successful conservation effort. I say "aggressive leadership" because Al has a good understanding of the farm problems in the State and fights hard to make conditions better. I heard a little story recently which I want to pass on to you. It seems that Governor Stafford was making his inaugural address to the Legislature after his thumping victory and he was waxing eloquent on the potential of Vermont and his program to develop the State. All of a sudden one of the representatives turned to the other and said, "Who do you suppose he thinks he is, Al Heald?" You know I consider that quite a compliment, Al.

Last week while discussing the uncertainties of the day with one of the Pennsylvania State Committeemen he told me a rather amusing story about his Uncle, whose name was Ernest, who happened to be a well driller in Western Pennsylvania. His foreman, it seems, was a huge, jovial Irishman by the name of Tom. He had the ability to make up rhymes on the spur of the moment to fit most any situation. One evening after they had completed a job and were all ready to move on the next day the Uncle paid off the help and was visiting with Tom, who said, "Ernie, don't pay me because if you do I will spend it. You just keep my week's wages." Uncle Ernest agreed and after a while went up to his room to read. Along about 10:30 there was a rap on the door and when Ernie opened it there stood Tom. He had a grin on his face and said, after some hesitation, "Ernie, did you ever think as the hearse rolls by, that even you and I must die, and as we lay there stiff and cold, that filthy cash our fingers can't hold. Ernie, give me my money, I want to spend it." Of course, we've got to have more faith in the future than Tom did because that is what keeps this world going.

Faith in the future is one thing but faith alone without an aggressive program to guarantee the future is of little use to man. I believe it is everyone's responsibility to exert their influence and efforts to see that the future of this country is secure and offers more to its citizens than the past. For that reason, I am interested in the conservation of our resources and the improvement of those resources for the benefit of the Vermonters of tomorrow.

The topic which I have chosen is "Conservation and Land Use Trends." Of course, when I say "conservation" I want it clearly understood that I am referring to conservation of our soil and forest resources. The land use trends, of course, are those trends which have taken place in Vermont.

Many people have different concepts of what the word "conservation" means. My definition is the protection and improvement of our soil and forest resources which will insure profitable use by the present generation and at the same time guarantee their usefulness to future generations. I stress usefulness because I think its utterly foolish to conserve resources if they cannot be used. The usefulness to man, to my way of thinking, is the reason for the efforts to conserve our National resources.

I chose to discuss this topic to counter, if possible, fuzzy thinking by some people about the effects of the Conservation Reserve Program on Vermont agriculture.

I am sure that you people have read and heard about the controversy which has arisen in some parts of the State over this program. It seems that some people, no need to mention names, believe that the government is promoting a program which if it is successful will wreck the economy of their particular county. Recently, I attended a meeting in Sheffield, Vermont, which was conducted under the auspices of the local Men's Club. Others invited to speak were Elmer Towne, Commissioner of Agriculture, a representative of the Vermont State Tax Commission and Al Heald. Each one had an opportunity to make a statement about the Conservation Reserve and then the Master of Ceremonies asked for questions from the floor. Statements had been made by certain people that the Conservation Reserve Program was wrecking the agricultural economy of that particular township. The fact was brought out that there were 34 farms in that town and 19 of them had asked for contracts in the Conservation Reserve. This, of course, looked like damning evidence that surely the farming of Sheffield was being obliterated by the Conservation Reserve. However, an analysis of the situation by the local ASC County Office showed that of the 19 farms, 17 of them had no livestock when they applied for Conservation Reserve contracts, the other two were in a section of the town where it was rather difficult to get to them and they had been purchased for the purpose of planting trees. Probably the most ideal use.

After the evening's discussion, I was convinced that most of those present agreed with a statement by Elmer Towne, who said, "It looks to me as though the Conservation Reserve Program offers a way to ease the financial burden of making desirable land use changes."

This controversy is not only limited to Vermont, but certain people in other sections of New England have shuddered because of the numbers of farms that are applying for contracts. Recently I read articles in some of the northern New Hampshire papers which were very vitriolic in their condemnation of the Conservation Reserve.

It seems to me that it behooves all of us to face the facts. When we do, we see that most of the land in Vermont now covered by Conservation Reserve contracts is land that is in the process of transition between agriculture and forestry. As Elmer Towne put it, that night at the meeting in Sheffield, this is an excellent method of making the transfer from cropland to woodland financially easier, not only for the person who owns the farm but for storekeepers, business men and others in the community.

For years, leaders in Vermont have recognized changes in the use of land in the State. Back in the days soon after the State was settled we find statements such as these made by some of the early leaders. "The land in our valleys is fertile and second to none in productivity. Our hill farms are some of the highest producing in the country. Why is it that they are being abandoned?" This problem of abandoned farms has been before our agricultural leadership for many years. As far back as 1870 we find it mentioned many times in papers given before agricultural groups. I am sure that many of you have tramped over the hills and in the deep woods have run across stone walls and cellar holes, evidence of hard work by the early settlers, and also evidence of a decided change in the use of land.

I would like to review the historical land use and then see what conservation efforts have done and are doing to bring about an intelligent and profitable use of land resources in the State. Back in 1880, according to the U. S. Census, there were 35,522 farms in Vermont with approximately 5,000,000 acres of land in farms, of which approximately 2,000,000 acres were in cropland which was harvested. In 1900, we find that there were 33,104 farms with approximately the same acreage of land in farms and the same percentage of cropland harvested. In the next 20 years the number of farms had decreased to 29,075 and the acreage of land in farms had also dropped to approximately 4,000,000 of which a little over a million was in cropland harvested. In 1940, we find that the Census listed 23,582 farms in the State, whereas the land in farms dropped to about $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres and a still further reduction in acreage of cropland harvested. Then we look at 1950 Census figures and find that the number of farms had dropped again to 19,043 and there were still about $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres of land in farms. However, the acres of cropland harvested had dropped decidedly to a little over 850,000 acres. Now with the latest Census figures, we find that in 1955 there were 15,981 farms with under 800,000 acres of cropland. It is estimated about 4,000 of these are part-time or residential farms so that leaves us with approximately 12,000 farms which could be classified as commercial.

From these U. S. Census figures which I have given we can see that there has been a decided reduction in the number of farms in the State in the last 75 years, with a corresponding reduction in the amount of land in farms and cropland. Of course, during this time the acreage of land not in farms has increased. There has been a change from cropland to pasture and woodland. It is interesting to note that there has not been any such reduction in dairy cows which just means dairymen are making more milk per acre farmed.

Not only has the Vermont dairyman increased the milk production per acre but he has also developed higher producing herds. A publication entitled, "An Analysis of the Productive Capacity of Vermont Agriculture," which is a result of the combined efforts of the Vermont Experiment Station, the Extension Service, the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Vermont Department of Education, stated that milk production per cow in 1950 was estimated at 5,840 pounds. This was increased according to figures from the same source to 6,160 pounds in 1956. That was nearly double the production per cow 50 years ago.

Vermont Dairymen by effective use of land and higher production per cow have increased efficiency of production on their farms markedly. We all know that when efficiency of production is increased the benefits of such increase go to the consumers. Either in reduced prices or prices that are low in comparison with other commodities, which is true in the case of Vermont milk today.

Let's for a moment consider the influences which have been a factor in this revolution of Vermont's agriculture. I am not going to attempt to list them in order of their importance but just recall the various influences as they come to my mind. First, I think of the Experiment Station's research on the needs of Vermont soils - this has been an all-important factor. Farm management studies and soils and crops work of the Extension Service. The informational and educational activities of the Vermont Forest Service and we can add, of course, the educational work of the Land Grant College, the vocational agricultural classes, as well as such groups as the Vermont Bankers' Association, Farm Supply dealers, and even the clergy. Then too, of course, there are the Federal farm programs, the Agricultural Conservation Program, and more recently the Conservation Reserve Program. The Forest Service with its close association with the State Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service working through local Soil Conservation Districts. I don't want to leave out of this list the Vermont Department of Agriculture, because over the years I am sure you will agree that their activities have been an important factor.

Inasmuch as the ASC State and county offices have responsibility for two of the activities listed, as well as cooperating with the other agencies in their program, I want to spend some time analyzing how the Agricultural Conservation Program and the Conservation Reserve Program have been and are being used to influence the use of land in Vermont. The Conservation Reserve is so new that I doubt if we can attribute much importance to its influence. However, the Agricultural Conservation Program has been participated in by Vermont farmers since 1936 and by observation I am sure that it has been a decided influence in the trend of land use in the State. We know that the production of higher-quality hay per acre has been increased. We also know that our smaller number of pasture acres are carrying more cows per acre. In some counties we also know that the acreage in woodland is receiving more attention and the acres of trees planted is rather spectacular.

Some people may say, well, that is all very good, but look at the millions of dollars which the government has paid out to get this accomplishment. They question whether or not it is good business for the public to have a part in this conservation effort and the improvement of the soil and forest resources of the State.

I remember very distinctly a statement made by Joe Carrigan, oh, it must have been 15 or 16 years ago when he was Dean of the College of Agriculture. I have a copy of it and every once in a while I refer to it because it seems to me it helps to answer the questions which some of our people still ask. Here is the statement made by Joe:

"For about a generation the Vermont Agricultural Extension Service has been demonstrating and teaching the value of lime and superphosphate when added to the soil as a means of increasing production of dairy feed crops. After about thirty years of such teaching, Vermont farmers were using relatively small amounts of these materials, the tonnage of lime per year still being under 10,000. Since the inauguration of the Agricultural Conservation Program carried on by the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, farmers of Vermont have increased the use of lime and superphosphate greatly. Over 100,000 tons of lime have been distributed to Vermont farmers in connection with the 1944 Agricultural Conservation Program, and since the starting of this program, the use of superphosphate has multiplied many times. This increased use of these materials has not only been an important factor in production of feed crops during the past few years when increased production was badly needed but it demonstrated the fact that something in addition to education is needed in order to bring about change in certain practices which call for an outlay of a considerable amount of money and development of new or enlarged trade channels."

If you are looking for justification for the money which Uncle Sam pays out to insure conservation and better land use it seems to me that the statement made by Joe Carrigan is sufficient.

I also remember a statement that George Dykhuizen made some 20 years ago before a group of county committeemen at the Hotel Van Ness. He pointed out that society at large had a stake in the future and that society should carry out this responsibility in assisting individuals to protect the soil resource and use it in such a manner as to insure productivity for future generations. I also remember a statement made by our good friend, Father Bill Tennien of St. Marks Parish in Burlington. He stated "that maintaining the fertility of the 8 inches of top soil upon which all life depends is a responsibility of society and not of individual farmers." Of course, you still can get an argument as to who has the responsibility of maintaining our valuable top soil. However, Uncle Sam has accepted partial responsibility and I am sure will continue to provide research, education and technical assistance as well as cash to promote conservation of our agricultural resources.

When you look at the record of participation by Vermont farmers in the Agricultural Conservation Program you will find that the State has traditionally led the country in the percentage of farms participating. For instance, in 1957 there were 62 percent of the farms in Vermont that carried out some improved practices from which they received cost-share in accordance with the Agricultural Conservation Program. In 1946, which is 12 years back, we find again that the percentage was 62 percent. In 1951, 69 percent of the farmers who could qualify to participate in the program did so. We also find that over the years since the program started in 1936 and including the 1957 program, Uncle Sam has assisted Vermont farmers to carry on improved soil and

forest practices to the tune of \$21,169,000. When you add the allocation for the 1958 program, which by the way will all be used and also the 1959 allocation, we arrive at a figure well over 24 million dollars. This money has been provided by Uncle Sam to assist Vermont farmers to protect and improve that all-important resource our soil and its cover.

The same report shows that over the years over 8 million dollars have been collected from Vermont farmers to pay for materials furnished them under the ACP and it is estimated that an additional expense of \$14-1/2 million dollars has cost the farmer to carry on this program of improved practices on Vermont farms. This roughly amounts to about 46 million dollars which has been invested in the crop, pasture and woodland on Vermont farms to carry out improved practices to promote desirable land use and conservation of the soil resource.

It is interesting to note over the years the vegetative cover practices, including the use of minerals, have been the most popular ACP practices with Vermont farmers. In 1952, we find that over 95 percent of the funds were used to provide a vegetative cover or to improve existing cover. We see some change since 1952 in the amount of funds used for erosion control. The land moving practices, have increased in the last few years from .26 percent in 1952 to 1.18 percent in 1957. The drainage practice also has been increasing although very slowly and the percentage of funds used only amounts to a little over 3 percent.

Your annual report on the Agricultural Conservation Program which was prepared by the ASC State Office shows that in 1957 program, 40 percent of the ACP funds were used on mixed fertilizer, whereas 25-plus percent was paid for using lime and 17 percent for the use of superphosphate. These minerals were used to maintain a better vegetative cover and to establish vegetative cover on land needing it. Then we see that approximately 7 percent was used to assist farmers in obstruction removal, 3 percent in drainage, 3 percent in forestry and other practices, including fencing, farm ponds, stripcropping, pipe lines, developing springs and seeps, shaping and land grading, channel clearance and shore protection, all together amounted to 3 percent..

Giving ACP all the credit due the program, I still believe it is the combined effort of all of the agencies which I mentioned before including the cost-sharing by Uncle Sam that has enabled farmers to effect the desirable land use changes which have taken place in the past years. Thereby increasing their efficiency of production as they have very markedly in recent years.

You ASC County Committeemen, County Office Managers, State Committeemen and members of the State Office Staff can be very proud of the contribution which you have made over the years in bringing about desirable land-use changes, protecting our soil and forest resources and at the same time making possible a larger income for Vermont farmers.

Speaking of farm income, I heard a good story recently. It seems that an investigator from the Department of Labor called on a rather large farmer to determine whether or not he was paying minimum wages. In questioning the farmer the investigator found that the family had a hired girl who worked about 40 hours a week and was paid \$35 plus her board and room. Then they had a hired man who worked about 60 hours a week and was paid \$75. Then the farmer said there is the half-wit, he gets about \$10 a week. Well, the labor investigator talked with the hired girl and he found that what the farmer told him was true and also he talked with the hired man and found that his wages were within the minimum wage law. However, the labor investigator couldn't seem to find the half-wit, so he went to the farmer and said, I find that you're paying minimum wages to your hired girl and to the hired man but where is the half-wit? The farmer looked at him and grinned and said, "Well, I am the half-wit, and my salary is about \$10 a week for 75 hours labor."

I'm sure you will agree that this story is a bit over-drawn, but it does seem all too often that the farmer's share is too small.

In closing, I want to congratulate you for the excellent job of administration you have done within National policies and regulations. You have effectively and efficiently administered the farm programs assigned to you and I am confident that you will continue that good record.

Thanks for your patience, it has been a pleasure to have the opportunity to visit with you.

THE COMMITTEEMAN'S DUAL PERSONALITY

Address by H. L. Manwaring, Deputy Administrator
for Production Adjustment, CSS, USDA
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, February 5, 1959

A copy of Mr. Manwaring's talk is not available, since he spoke extemporaneously. However, some of the highlights were noted as follows:

The State, county and community committee system presently used in the United States is patterned after that developed here in Vermont. Committeemen have a dual personality - (1) that of farmers and (2) that of bureaucrats.

Agriculture presents many problems today. Among them are these:

1. We must broaden markets by putting on a tremendous sales campaign.
2. We must put our best products on the world market in order to compete with foreign goods.
3. We must decide as to whether we will compete in world markets by subsidizing our own products or bring the domestic prices of our commodities down so that they are priced low enough to compete in foreign markets.
4. We must decide as to whether a reduction in the price of our commodities would increase sales enough to make up the difference in net returns by greater volume of sales.
5. We must be careful in the pricing of our commodities so that the price will not get so high that substitutes will be developed.
6. We must decide whether we should produce for domestic consumption rather than for storage in Government warehouses.
7. We must determine how to take off the restrictions on the growing of commodities.

One method of alleviating the need for restrictions has come about by the introduction of the Soil Bank Program. One purpose of the Soil Bank Program is to reduce our agricultural plant. 9.9 million acres were placed in the Soil Bank in 1958 and another 13 million acres will be added in 1959.

Another problem that we face is that of balancing the budget in order to control inflation.

Still another problem is our attitude toward the conservation problem and how to bring about a compromise between increased production which comes with good conservation as compared to pure conservation without additional production. We have a team in the conservation field composed of conservation education, technical services, and financial help. We cannot afford to give up our conservation programs now. We must continue to take good care of our present land resources for the future. We should continue to use this conservation team to continue the National conservation effort.

We have these and many other agricultural problems facing us today. The solving of these problems will be brought about by the thinking of the farmers themselves. Farmers must give very serious thought to these problems. We should all try to develop a farm program that will be self-sustaining.

THE BANKER LOOKS AT ACP

Address by Fortis Abbott, Farm Representative
Howard National Bank & Trust Co.
at State ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, February 5-6, 1959

It is normal for a speaker on this kind of program to begin by saying that he is glad to be here and is honored to be allowed to address the august assembly. On the other hand, instead of being here, I would prefer to be out in my sugar bush, getting ready for the 1959 sugar season or cutting brush --- and the chances are that you will wish the same thing before the next half hour is over.

This is the first chance I have had to say thank you for a big job that ACP Committeemen did for me back in 1946 when they took a complete census of the maple sugar makers in the State. That survey was the basis of the considerable progress of that industry since that time.

Another personal tie with this group is the fact that my membership in the Otter Creek Soil Conservation District dates from its organization, enrolling the farm which I then owned in Starksboro. My name is also, of course, on the rolls of ACP in Chittenden County where we operated the farm for 20 years.

I feel that I am sailing under false colors to a certain extent. The program has listed me as a representative of the Vermont Bankers' Association. Perhaps, it is not best to try to place the blame for this. I can only hope that the Bankers of Vermont do not run me out of the State when they find out who is representing them before this group of V.I.P.'s. Frankly, the farmer classification fits me better than banker, except when there is a poker game, then I am willing to be the banker.

To take the edge from this situation, I did make a limited research in the form of a questionnaire pertaining to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program. The 67 banks, including branch offices, proved to be no better than a bunch of farmers when it came to making replies. However, a total of 30 replies was received which included at least one Bank in each of the 12 counties which have a main office.

The questions were of a general nature and called for estimates and opinions rather than accurate reports from records. Again, the returns indicated that the Banks apparently are no better than the farmers when it comes to keeping statistical records at least.

The final figures are not, in my opinion, sufficiently complete or accurate enough to use for state-wide estimates. They do, however, give us a few conclusions.

The first point revealed is the exhibition of a general willingness to give all possible aid to the ACP program of fertilizer, lime and physical land improvement.

21 of the 30 replies indicated a total of 342 borrowers of money for these purposes during 1958, for a total of \$169,800. This figures out to approximately \$400 per loan.

From the standpoint of the Banks, it is interesting to note that 39 of these borrowers were new customers for the lenders.

Further evidence of the mutual benefits of the business is the report that 14 of the banks were able to grant EVERY request for a loan for these purposes. The average percentage for the 21 banks reporting in this respect was 94.4%.

The few rejections were attributed to (1) Undesirable credit risk and (2) Already on extended financing.

The questions relating to security for such loans brought out the indication that approximately 90% are secured by chattel or Real Estate mortgages, divided about 50 - 50 between the two kinds of security. It would appear that most of these loans were fitted into the open-end existing mortgages or were made on separate notes to be later absorbed into renewal notes with security already pledged.

Except for two banks which indicated a limit of 2 and 4 years respectively for repayment, all replies reported the one year repayment as most acceptable.

And now on the next question. The Banker shows his disposition to be firm or even a little tough with few exceptions. The 30 answers say, "No concessions," on terms or interest rates for this particular type of loan as compared to loans for other agricultural purposes.

The recent introduction of the Soil Bank Program into our agricultural economy appears to have provoked a certain amount of controversy. A couple of questions were included on this item. The answers at least proved it to be a controversial subject.

Three choices were allowed in giving an opinion on the effect of this program on the general economy of the State.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Favorable | 2. Unfavorable | 3. Of No Importance |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|

The 21 who ventured an answer were divided as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. Favorable | 6 |
| 2. Unfavorable | 5 |
| 3. Of no importance | 10 |

In reply to a direct question as to the number of interviews or applications during 1958 for outright purchase money mortgage loans with which to buy farms or land eligible for soil bank, with the intention of repayment predicated on the rental money from USDA; nine banks reported 26 such cases.

This might not be an indication of a trend, but my own experience indicates that 50% at least of such inquiries come from people who are not active farmers.

The figures which I have offered as representing the interest of the Vermont banks in the ACP programs, should be augmented by a mention of the Federal Land Bank and Production Credit activity in this field.

An area, which to me, appears to compare in size with the area estimated to be covered by the 21 banks that furnished figures on volume of ACP loans, is reported to have been involved to the extent of 175 borrowers and an amount of \$50,000. In other words, the FLB and PCA have assisted about as many farmers as 10 banks in the same area. Their loans have been a little smaller, at the rate of about \$300 each on the average as against the \$400 for the regular banks. Otherwise their treatment of the problem has been about the same, from the angle of security and repayment terms, interest, etc. Production Credit indicates a larger proportion of unsecured loans, for this purpose.

It is probably not safe to make any estimate of the total financial assistance that has been required to carry out the 1958 ACP program, which is reported as involving \$800,000 in Vermont, however a sort of educated guess might be that lenders of all kinds have been involved in 50% of this volume.

The main inference that could be drawn from these hastily collected statistics, is First - that Vermont Banks are fully in sympathy with the ACP program and Second - that they stand ready to back up this sympathy with loan funds to practically 95% of the requests.

You might be interested in some population statistics from the special Vermont Census Committee. The latest figures indicate as follows:

People - - - - -	377,432
Cattle - - - - -	377,433
Deer - - - - -	149,872
Bear - - - - -	2,961
Beaver - - - - -	21,403

THE BEAR AND THE BEAVER ARE THE ONLY CLASSIFICATIONS THAT ARE INCREASING!
DOES THIS - - - - - OR DOES IT NOT - - - - - INDICATE A TREND?

At the calculated risk of boring you with more figures and statistics (and you must remember that these are the life-blood of our banking institutions) I would demonstrate the interest of the Vermont banks in Vermont agriculture with just a few over-all figures, compiled by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

For this purpose I have to use 1957 calculations as the 1958 statistics have not been completed. Total loans of all kinds from lending institutions to farmers in Vermont come to 46½ million. To this must be added private lending, estimated at 16 million, and an undetermined amount from Life Insurance Companies, Equipment Manufacturers, Feed Companies, Dealers, etc., in all, probably approaching 80 million dollars of farm credit.

Now even though connected with a banking institution, I have a hard time to realize just what a million dollars is, though I did once see a check for that amount. I was allowed to hold it in my hand. I have to get at it by comparison with something I am familiar with like cow's milk. In 1957 Vermont sales of milk came to 83 million dollars. In other words, Vermont farmers are borrowing an amount equal to their milk production for one year, and Vermont banks are in on the deal to the tune of 26 million, or about one-fifth of the total. Federal Land Bank and Production Credit loans are reported as just over 20 million or about one-fourth of the total estimated credit.

With 26 million dollars at stake in the game of economics of agriculture, the Vermont banks are in the same position as the Scotchman who was presented with a 25 cent cigar, and asked how he liked it -- said I HAVE TO LIKE IT - IT WAS JUST GIVEN TO ME.

Perhaps Soil Conservation, lime and fertilizer, reforestation and ACP programs do not come at the head of the list as to importance, but they are certainly fundamental and tied in very closely with all agricultural production.

If I may for a moment dwell on some of the other factors in our agricultural economy, which are perhaps more closely related to the banker's daily problems in dealing with agricultural loans; such as CROP AND MILK PRODUCTION --- TAXES --- LIVESTOCK TRENDS AND PRICES --- INTEGRATION, ETC.

Our Vermont banks are not specialized. Mostly they are not even departmentalized. The Vermont banker has the problem of the real estate developer, the manufacturer, the feed and implement dealer, the laundry, butcher, baker; and the home owner. It has been impossible perhaps for him to give agriculture the share of his attention that it might deserve. He must be a sort of jack at all trades. Depending upon his location he has to put in his time with that classification of the customers from which most of his business is derived.

A few of the Banks have employed men especially qualified by education and experience to work on the detail of agricultural loans. This appears likely to continue provided the size of the banks' business will afford it.

I do not need to remind you of the violent changes that are taking place in our agricultural economy. From separating the cream from the milk in community skimming plants and horse hauling the jugs of cream to the railroads, as we were doing in 1910 to the present system of bulk tanks of milk direct from the farms over hard-surfaced roads to the bottling plants in 1959; has certainly seen a lot of milk over the dam.

Tractors, trucks, modern equipment of all kinds has multiplied the investment in farm business, increasing the credit problem, and constantly changing the outlook from a financial standpoint.

In order to make intelligent and helpful loans, the Vermont banker must be able to recognize and analyze trends. Are cow prices going to stay on their present level long enough for the borrower to get them paid for, or at least turn them in for a better model. We have seen the average production of milk per cow increase from a little less than 4,000 lbs. to nearly 7,000 lbs. in my lifetime.

For the past year we have seen the State exporting more cows than were imported (about 2%) and this without raising the replacements to make up for the loss. Studies on this current change result in the conclusion that the trend will continue for another year at least. We are seeing the price of farm land, even in Vermont, steadily increase from an average of 58 dollars per acre in 1940 to 128 dollars in 1953 (this of course includes the buildings). The increase last year was 2% and it looks like the end is not yet. Nationwide the credit demands of agriculture increased 10% in the last 12 months. Under these conditions the banker is expected to figure out how best to be of intelligent help in keeping the industry rolling. If the loans are too small and the repayment terms too short, the borrower may not have received any benefit whatever. If the loans are too large and the terms of repayment too liberal, the bank stands a good chance of a loss and the disagreeable process of foreclosure.

A good loan must be of benefit both to the bank and to the borrower.

I know that even the mention of the word TAXES, sends a shiver down your spine. The banker as well as you, however, has to look the tax problem in the face. Town -- State and Federal, --- taxes on the individual, and this includes the farmers, is closely approaching 25% of net income.

Whenever a bank makes a real estate loan, the mortgage goes on record in the town clerk's office as you know. Immediately the tax collector heaves a sigh of relief. If the borrower does not pay the tax promptly, the collector sends the bill to the bank, and the bank becomes the collector. Is it any wonder that bankers get gray headed early in life.

Most of the banks making farm loans on real estate and personal property have adopted the package payment plan, which includes ⁱⁿ a semi-monthly milk order, the separate sums needed for principal, interest, taxes and fire insurance. This alleviates to some extent the tax risk.

As most of you know, from your connection with town affairs, a determined effort is being made by the Legislature and the State Tax Department to establish methods of equalizing the town tax base. Our listeners have a big job to accomplish in this respect. I hope you are lending your aid in every way possible. Equitable taxation makes for more intelligent and equitable loan practice.

Not the least of the tax problems are the forest lands as mentioned by Keith Wallace yesterday. I am responsible, and proud of it, for the introduction of the first Vermont forest severance tax bill in the 1951 Legislature. Killed by one vote in the Senate that year, I brought it in again in 1953; killed again, it will still be heard from in 1959.

Its principles are sound and equitable. It would advance our economy, encourage reforestation, and make forest lands much more attractive to the bank institutions as security for long-time loans.

Perhaps you have not come into close contact with the rather new term of INTEGRATED farming. It has crawled upon us pretty fast in the last few years. Reliable information indicates that 90% of the broiler business; 50% of the turkey raising; and 10 to 20% of cattle feeding has fallen into this category. The wind is blowing that way, even in the dairy business, and will present more problems for the banker to solve.

Now that I have defended, I hope to some extent at least, the role of the banker and his relation to the farm problem, and including of course the activities of the ACP and the ASC, may I say a word about the subject that will during the next few years and perhaps months, be the most serious of all subjects affecting the future of the agricultural industry.

I refer to National or Federal SUBSIDIES AND SURPLUSES. The subject is not confined to agriculture. It involves the items of schools and school buildings; housing and slum clearance; the price of steel and the cost of automobiles.

Like it or not, be you Republican or Democrat, we have passed the POINT OF NO RETURN on the road to a SOCIALIST Economy. Is that bad? Neither you nor I yet has the answer but some of us are having a hard time to get used to it.

Water and sewage systems; light and power systems were long ago recognized and treated as public utilities and put under community or government control.

In 1916 the Federal Land Bank was organized to influence interest rates and terms on agricultural loans. Other lenders were forced to meet their terms particularly the amortization feature which by way of Federal Housing laws has been extended to real estate loans of all kinds.

Also in 1916, New England Milk Producers started organizations intended to equalize the prices of milk to producers. The milk organizations multiplied in numbers but failed in their objectives until the idea of the Federal Orders was conceived and consummated, which has made milk essentially a public utility with the price under government control.

War regulations and production demands completed the job on most of the main agricultural crops of the Nation. Price fixing trigged the operation of supply and demand. Subsidies supported the inefficient producer, and encouraged the efficient ones to produce a surplus -- so round and round she goes and where we come out -- nobody knows - least of all the banker. Best we can do is to continue to study trends and meet the specific problems as they arise.

Biology studies since the findings of Mendel and his theories of ancestral heritage of favorable and unfavorable characteristics have set us off on national programs of breeding and hy-breeding which include both the plant and the animal kingdom. Reminds me

The college agricultural student and his counterpart co-ed in the Home Economics Department had decided to get married, as they do now in their junior year. They had visited the punch bowl at the party several times and were discussing the future and probable progeny. Said the sister co-ed, "Our sons will certainly be born with a THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE -- they will get the knowledge from me and the thirst from you."

The sun came up this morning at 7:08 as it has been doing for 11 million years, more or less. Archeologists have been digging in the deserts of Asia to depths of hundreds of feet to unearth artifacts by which they can analyze the character and activity of plant and animal life including the genus homo-sapiens, on this planet, 5,000 years and more ago, in the search for knowledge.

The geologists claim to have been able to determine within a few thousand years of the time when the glacial cap covering the North Pole, slid off into the sea and gouged out the Great Lakes and our beloved Lake Champlain.

What history has been written and preserved has brought us to the habitation of many parts of the planet EARTH and in recent years to the earthquake disturbances of her INSIDES, the discovery of lakes of oil under the sea, and there is still plenty that we know little about including those items included in the popular term "SPACE."

When I see one of Bill Arm's Soil Conservation District Tractors scratching out a diversion ditch on the banks of the Winooski Brook it forces me to realize the small part that you and I are taking in the GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS.

If there is one thing to be learned and remembered through our insignificant life-times and generation, it seems to me it can be expressed by the word HUMILITY. Using that as a clue, I am sure it will lead us to worth while consideration of our relations to one another and our several occupations as a part of the whole Scheme of Things.

PROBLEMS FACED BY SCS IN HANDLING
TECHNICAL ASSIGNMENTS UNDER ACP AND CRP

Address by L. J. Peet, State Conservationist, SCS
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, February 6, 1959

Someone said recently, "You don't have problems, just opportunities." There is a lot in that statement. On the other side of every problem there is an opportunity. I like to think we here in Vermont in our soil and water conservation activities are looking for opportunities - opportunities to give the best service and do the best job we can with what we have.

We have responsibility for the technical phases of certain practices you cost-share. You pay part of the cost of these services. You have an interest in what it costs to do the job and in how well it is done. We both need to have a good understanding of each other's activities to take advantage of the opportunities our working relationship affords.

I want to take a few minutes to review Soil Conservation Service activities in Vermont. Under Public Law 46, 74th Congress, funds are available to the Service to provide technical assistance to districts. Such assistance has been provided the districts in Vermont ever since they were organized. Practically all SCS funds available to Vermont today are for assistance to districts. If the districts decided they no longer needed or wanted SCS assistance, there would be no need or justification for the present SCS organization in the State. (SCS assistance to districts is based on a memorandum of understanding which either party may cancel upon due notice.)

The major uses of our Public 46 funds in Vermont are these.

I. Inventory of soil resources of State

This is carried out as part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. The Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station and the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks are cooperators. Eight soil scientists are employed to map the soils, describe them, make soil investigations and interpretations, etc. Approximately 3 million acres have been mapped to date.

II. Help district cooperators develop conservation plans

These plans are simply a record of what the operator, with such help as the conservationist can give, decides he should do to meet his immediate and longterm land use objectives. About 50% of the present 11,250 district cooperators have conservation plans for their entire holdings. Many of these plans are in need of substantial revision. Sixteen soil conservationists are employed to help with this job. Ten of these have supervisory and other duties that take part of their time.

III. Help get planned practices properly installed

This job has two major parts. The first consists of giving such on-site assistance as may be needed when the operator definitely schedules the work. Such assistance may include any or all of the following:

- a. Field surveys
- b. Design
- c. Stake out
- d. Supervision of construction
- e. Checking job before equipment leaves

The second part is periodically to follow up cooperators. This may involve any or all of the following:

- a. Provide information about agronomic and other practices that don't involve on-site help
- b. Discuss and make changes in plan as needed
- c. Check progress of cooperator in applying his plan
- d. Encourage operator to move ahead on his plan and schedule work farmer definitely wants to do

The equivalent of twenty conservation aids are paid from Public 46 for this job. (Two engineers are also employed to help with the more complex/^{engineering} phases of planning and application.)

IV. Facilitating activities

These are designed to help the SCS do the three types of work already described. They are mentioned only because they take time. They include work with district boards of supervisors, ASC Committees and others, time on informational work, time developing and improving technical materials, etc. No one is employed for these activities but they do take some of the time of all employees.

Our technical assignments in connection with the ACP and CRP programs do add to the job for which PL 46 funds are appropriated. The addition comes about in two ways. If it involves a practice on a district cooperator's farm and is a part of the work the district supervisors expect the SCS to do during the year, the additional time is limited to:

- a. Determining need and feasibility, including conformity with practice requirements, and reporting the number of units to be performed and estimated costs.

- b. Certifying the completed job and in some cases, when purchase orders are involved, reporting that the machine work has been satisfactorily performed.

The amount of the additional time required for these things depends upon many factors. A major factor is whether or not the practice is already in a conservation plan.

The other way in which our ACP and CRP assignments add to the job for which we have PL 46 funds is this. Some of the practices involved are on farms of other than district cooperators and PL 46 funds are available for work on district cooperator farms. Even though the practice is on a cooperator's farm, if the total volume of work is beyond the available resources of SCS, the board of supervisors may have decided that this is a part of the total they will not do this year. The supervisors have this right under our understanding with them and they have exercised it in some cases. While they are generally willing to establish priorities as between operating farms and other farms, they aren't so willing to establish priorities among operating farms. I'm sure you have a similar problem in apportioning ACP funds and know the decision isn't always easy.

You have recognized that the handling of ACP and CRP technical assignments has involved additional work and you have made funds available for such additional work. We appreciate this help. It has enabled us to augment our staff by the equivalent of four plus aids. We actually have twenty-four aids. As a result, we have a much better staffing of aids than we otherwise would have. We could not give you the service we are now without the additional four.

Actually you are not paying for the services of any four particular aids. All the aids, and to a lesser extent the soil conservationists and engineers too, work on ACP technical assignments. Therefore, you have some financial interest in the quality and quantity of work these men do.

You and we - all of us - are concerned constantly about operating efficiently. How can we do our work better with less time and effort? As a general principle we are certain we can handle our ACP and CRP technical responsibilities best by meshing them in with the assistance we give districts. We know, for example, it isn't efficient to schedule work separately on non cost-shared practices and on cost-shared practices. Different ASC County Committees follow somewhat different operating procedures so the problems, if any, of coordination have to be worked out locally. I think they largely have been worked out. However, let's keep the general principle in mind and make any further improvements we can.

At the risk of repeating what you already know better than I, here are some local problems of possible interest to you that our soil conservationists have mentioned. Perhaps everything that can be done on them has been done or is being done. Or it may be some opportunities still exist for improvement.

a. "Shotgun" sign-up

There is a tendency on the part of farmers to sign up for practices they plan to do plus those they would like to do if. Sometimes they exercise their imagination as to the practice needed to solve the problem they have in mind. The result, of course, is more fallouts than otherwise and time wasted - time involving both your funds and Public 46 funds. You have been working on this. The situation has improved. In our follow-up we are putting stress on finding out what the next job is the farmer will do. For farmers with conservation plans, it might be helpful at time of sign-up to ask if there are practices in his plan he expects to carry out during the year.

b. Too many referrals in relation to funds for cost-sharing

In at least one County it would appear that, even with normal fallout, funds will be inadequate for full cost-sharing of the practices farmers want to do. Our concern is that the more fallouts there are, the more it costs in relation to what gets on the ground.

c. Confusion on purchase orders

This doesn't involve our technicians directly. However, sometimes a farmer says he wants a job done under the purchase order method and doesn't have a purchase order. In other cases he has questions about a purchase order. Other times they are confused about the small payment increase provision and ask questions about that. These things take some of the time of our men.

d. Preparation of cost estimates

Some county committees want reasonably accurate cost estimates shown on the referral when it is returned with the technician's recommendation. Other committees are not so concerned. When the cost-share is based on the cost estimate, technicians are inclined to spend considerable time to make them reasonably accurate.

e. Failure of farmers to advise in advance of jobs to be done

This is less of a problem than it was. There are still a few farmers, however, who call for help the morning the equipment arrives.

All these are problems of more or less concern to us both. They are mainly local problems. I know you and our technicians have been working on them. My only question is, are there still opportunities for improvement?

Sometimes there is a question as to whether or not a practice meets the practice description and requirements. The practices most commonly involved are ponds for livestock water to permit better distribution of grazing, drainage practices, and obstruction removal. Many of you have gone out with our technicians and reached a decision on the ground. The guidelines you have set up have been helpful. Additional cases will probably come up in the future where the same thing should be done. Some of you undoubtedly think that the obstruction removal practice should be limited more than it now is in the State handbook. It might facilitate the making of decisions. I am sure, however, that some worthwhile and needed jobs would be excluded. So much depends upon the situation on the individual farm.

I am sure you are as unhappy as we are with the time we had to spend this year in arriving at the proper amount of funds to make available for the services we are giving you. Various recommendations have been made for providing in some other manner the funds SCS needs. Whether any of these will be accepted, none of us knows. Of this much I am sure, to make this year's procedures really effective - you, district supervisors and we in SCS must have a good understanding of each other's work and work together very closely. If the procedures are continued, I do hope they are greatly simplified.

During the past decade there have been many changes in conservation planning. At the start it was assumed that anyone who became a district cooperator was ready for a conservation plan. We made many plans, sometimes for the farmer rather than assisting him to make his own plan. As time has gone on, we have learned a great deal about planning, though by no means all. I am certain in my own mind there is a great need for plans that are based on immediate and longtime objectives with respect to land use and cropping patterns and water control and disposal systems. After that, other things fall in place rather easily. On farms without plans, I have seen many instances where fields have been cut up or changed so that considerable additional expense will now be required to make the best and most efficient use of the land resources of the entire farm.

The last few years we have done far too little conservation planning. By no means all cooperators are yet ready to use and benefit from a conservation plan, but enough are to much more than use up the resources we have for planning. The phase of our work we are emphasizing most this year is a substantial step-up in the extent of planning help we give farmers. This is related to the help we are giving you in at least two ways. First, we believe that more and better planning will result in more and better work on the ground and greater efficiency in the performance of our ACP technical assignments. Secondly, we want our soil conservationists to spend more of their time on planning and less on application, even though PL 46 funds and whatever funds you give us make it difficult to keep our present staff of aids.

We want to thank you and the State ASC office for your cooperation this past year. We appreciated the opportunity we had last spring to give you information about earth moving practices and hope the information was useful and the program presented of interest. Personally and on behalf of our staff, I can say that we want and are glad to work with you, as well as with districts and with other agencies sharing in parts of the total conservation effort, to the end that we get done the best job possible with our combined resources.

WHAT ACP HAS MEANT TO THE GREEN PASTURES PROGRAM IN VERMONT

Address by Douglas Kitchel, Past President,
Vermont Green Pastures Council, Inc.
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, February 6, 1959

A copy of Mr. Kitchel's talk is not available since he spoke extemporaneously.

However, some of the highlights were noted as follows:

The Vermont Green Pastures Program started in 1948 as a Summer Program. It has since evolved into a complete roughage program and was put on a permanent basis in 1955 with the establishment of the Vermont Green Pastures Council, Inc.

The ACP has been a help in critical times of war and peace both to farmers individually and to the general public.

Green Pastures winners in Caledonia County for the past 12 years have been ACP participants.

Green Pasture participants might be divided into three classes:

1. Those using 5-6 times the materials allowed under present county ACP allowance.
2. Those using about the ACP allowance.
3. Those using less than the ACP allowance.

The larger farmer is using the same or more materials even with lowered county farm limits.

The growing of better crops brings about a better net financial condition and not necessarily a greater gross product.

Thought should be given to adapting ACP practices offered so that all farmers can benefit from ACP. Consideration should be given to rock phosphate and other materials for use under ACP.

Mr. Kitchel urged that community committeemen be better trained to do the sign-up job and should coordinate more with other agencies on farmers' problems.

OBLIGATING ACP PROGRAM FUNDS

Address by A. F. Heald,
State Administrative Officer
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, February 6, 1959

Vermont county committeemen and county office managers have a real challenge to use the program funds allocated to them and at the same time not obligate the expenditure of more funds than are available. To assist counties in this job a review has been made of the status of 1958 and 1959 ACP program funds as of January 30, 1959. The result of this review indicates the following:

1958 Program Funds

1958 program funds are over-obligated by a total of three thousand and some odd dollars. However, some counties have a balance of funds whereas other counties are in the "red." To this end we are asking counties that have a balance of funds to release them so that they may be allocated to those counties that need additional funds. This will be done with the understanding that any county releasing funds will get an adjustment in their 1959 or 1960 allocation. Likewise, counties getting additional funds in 1959 will have to receive reduced allocations for 1959 and/or 1960. Counties are requested to inform the State Office as soon as possible of any amounts that can be released.

1959 Program Funds

A tabulation on 1959 obligations was distributed to the group and discussed. This tabulation indicated that we are over-obligated by about \$40,000. (Note: Since the conference one county reported a \$16,000 error, thus the over-obligation should have been \$24,000).

A review of the status, county by county, indicated that 3 counties had a small additional amount which could be obligated. 8 other counties were not over-obligated to the extent that it should cause any great concern. The use of concurrent operations will adequately control their funds. 3 counties will need to reconsider their obligations and take steps to make adjustments.

It was pointed out that the tabulations will be sent out to the counties with an ASC Letter.

Plans for County Informational Meetings

Mr. Heald announced that the State Committee was making plans for county informational meetings for community committeemen this June. The subject will be "Use of ACP to Improve the Farm Roughage Program." Counties will be given additional information on these meetings at a later date.

ASC State Conference
Burlington, Vermont
February 5-6, 1959

Program Planning Recommendations - 1960 Agricultural Conservation Program

The committee on program planning submits the following recommendations for the consideration of the full conference. For convenience, these recommendations are listed as nearly as possible in the order in which they were taken up at the county meetings.

Background Statement

These recommendations take into consideration the National agricultural situation, but particularly the situation here in Vermont. We also had in mind the fact that the Conservation Reserve Program is catching on more and that participation in this program in our State in 1959 will be much higher than in previous years.

One of the big problems in Vermont is determining how the small amount of funds that we have under ACP will be distributed to the participating farms. In this connection, note is made of the fact that Vermont leads the nation in ACP participation. We have 79% of our cropland participating compared to a National average of about 36%. The recommendations brought out in our report are made with the idea in mind of having the farmer pay a much larger share of the conservation costs than they do in some areas and in some states. Recommendations as to the cost-shares on minerals are low because we recognize the fact that we do not have adequate funds to go around and under these circumstances we believe that the farmer must pay a larger share of the cost of mineral practices.

Our recommendations are also based upon the premise that we will get the same State allocation that we had in 1959. If we get more or less funds, our recommendations might be different.

All of these points were brought to the attention of community committeemen and other participating agencies at a series of meetings just concluded in each Vermont county. The delegates at this sub-committee meeting represented the thinking at the county level. They took into consideration the action taken in their respective counties by the community committeemen and by the technical group.

Importance of Minerals to our Vermont Program

The group wants to reaffirm the position previously stated that our Vermont program is primarily designed to help establish a sod ground. Our aim in the use of minerals is not for direct production, but it is through the use of minerals that we are aiming to build up a better sod in the long run which will aid materially our conservation effort. In our area of grassland farming, the use of minerals is a must in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Part I - Program Policies

The group discussed in detail the seven principles which were contained in the 1959 practice handbook. They took the following action in regard to these principles:

Principles Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7

It is recommended that these principles be continued.

Principle No. 4

It is recommended that the first sentence of Principle No. 4 be continued but that the second sentence which reads, "In no event should costs be shared on practices except those which are over and above those farmers would be compelled to perform in order to secure a crop." be clarified to point out that the word "crop" refers to cultivated cash crops. If this is not done, the sentence should be eliminated.

Principle No. 6

The group recommended that the last sentence which now reads, "Such of the available funds that cannot be wisely utilized for this purpose will be returned to the public treasury." be changed to read, "Any available funds that cannot be wisely utilized for this purpose be reallocated to other states that need the money."

Changes to Make the Program Work Better

Under this heading the group made the following recommendations:

The group discussed the time of year at which training schools were held and finally voted to recommend that they be held at the same time as last year.

The group discussed the allocation of funds at the county level from farm to farm and agreed that the system should be left up to the individual county.

The group discussed the allocation of funds from the State level to the county level. There was some discussion about using listers' figures as compared to census figures on animal units. The group finally recommended, however, that the formula and method should be left as it was in 1959.

Part II - Practice Recommendations

In keeping with the above program policies, the group recommended the following in connection with the specific practices as offered under our 1959 program. In making these practice recommendations and cost-share rates, the group did so on the basis of a State allocation similar to 1959 and with the understanding that we are recommending rates and practices to be set up in the State handbook. Each county will continue to have the privilege to offer reduced rates or added practice restrictions.

Practice No. 1 - Lime

The practice should be continued as in 1959. The cost-share rate should remain on a 50-50 basis.

Practices Nos. 2 and 3

The group recommended that these practices be continued as in 1959 and that the cost-share rates be on the basis of the Government's paying 40% of the cost.

Practices Nos. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18

Several counties recommended that there be restrictive cost-share rates on these practices. The group agreed, however, that they should be offered in the State handbook as they were in 1959 with the same cost-share rates pointing out that any county which wants to may place a lower rate in their county handbook.

Practice No. 6

The group agreed to adopt the practice with the following change: Pruning immature softwood stands must be done in such a manner that there are at least 100 trees per acre under five inches in diameter breast high pruned up to nine feet; in stands already pruned up to nine feet, Federal cost-sharing will be allowed for extending the pruning to an additional four feet; in stands already pruned up to 13 feet, Federal cost-sharing will be allowed for extending the pruning an additional four feet. (The underlined items are the ones which have been changed).

Practice No. 11 - Pipelines

The counties recommended that this practice be continued as in 1959 but that the cost-share rate be changed by adding the words "or other mechanical device approved by the county committee."

Practice No. 15 - Open Drainage

The committee agreed to approve the practice with the following change: Add "and provided further that areas from which obstructions have been removed under Practice No. 7 shall be eligible" to the fourth sentence of the practice as written in the 1959 State handbook.

Practice No. 19 - Special Conservation Practice

The group agreed that this provision should be continued in the State handbook.

They pointed out that the type of special practice to be offered in individual counties should be worked up in that county and recommended to the State Committee as provided in the procedure.

Practice No. 20 - County Conservation Practice

The group recommended that this provision be continued.

Practice No. 20(a) - Super with Manure

The group recommended that this practice be continued and that the State handbook should set a 40% cost-share rate for the Government.

Practice No. 21 - New Conservation Problems

The group recommended that this provision be continued.

New Practices

No new practices were recommended.

Minimum Requirements for Lime and Fertilizer

The group recommended that the same minimum requirements as were in effect in 1959 be continued.

Conservation Materials and Services

The group agreed that we should continue to furnish conservation materials and services under contract as in 1959, but they pointed out that the individual types of materials and services to be furnished in a county should be left up to the determination of that county.

The group agreed that the extent and kind of service to be furnished by purchase order should be left up to the individual county.

Soil Sampling Service

The group agreed that the extent of the use of the soil sampling service should be left up to the individual county.

Other Suggestions

The group discussed the method to be used for enrolling farmers and agreed that it should be left up to the individual county.

The group recommended that the small cost-share increase be handled as in the past.

The group discussed election meetings and felt that, although there was some merit in considering holding elections by mail, the method to be used in an individual county be left to the determination of the county committee. The group expressed the opinion that community meetings were the way to do it where you could get a good turnout, but that the problem was getting a good turnout.

The group discussed the use of diagrams and visual aids at training schools and recommended that the State Office use such visual aids as they felt advisable.

Respectfully submitted,

Edson E. Gifford
For the Program Planning Committee

A. F. Heald, Secretary

Other Members of the Program Planning Committee

Sedgewick Preston, Addison County
Robert Highter, Addison County
Clyde Bryant, Bennington County
E. W. Mattison, Bennington County
George Ricker, Caledonia County
Roland Simpson, Caledonia County
G. N. Baldwin, Chittenden County
Raymond Rowley, Chittenden County
Robert Carlson, Chittenden County
Mrs. Mildred Hook, Essex County
Stuart Newton, Franklin County
Roland Gervais, Franklin County
Walter Rockwood, Franklin County
Alan Kinney, Grand Isle County
Lawrence Gregory, Lamoille County
Mrs. Liva Sinclair, Orange County
Walter Wheatley, Orange County
Henry Dagesse, Orleans County
Roy Burroughs, Rutland County
George Livak, Rutland County
William Corey, Rutland County
W. J. Bisson, Washington County
Myron Allen, Windham County
Arthur Bensenhaver, Windham County
Matthew Watson, Windsor County

Visitors Present

Hugh Evans
E. N. Blondin
Thomas H. Blow
William Stone
A. W. Gottlieb
Charles Winslow, Sr.
J. Howard Kittell

NOTE: This report is based on conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.

ASC State Conference
Burlington, Vermont
February 5-6, 1959

Report of the CRP Planning Committee

The committee in developing their recommendations considered the changes made in rental rates since the start of the program in 1956 and the apparent effect of these changes on the accomplishments. They also considered the summary of community committee recommendations made at county planning meetings.

The following recommendations are presented for consideration by the full conference. We move that they be adopted.

Eligible Land

It is recommended that open pastureland be included for planting to trees if the entire farm is placed in the reserve.* Planting in pasture would be allowed up to the amount of eligible tillable land. Payment would be made on the practice but no rental payment would be made.

Annual Rental Rates

The committee had no recommendations for change.

Practices and Practice Payments

The committee had no recommendations for change.

Other Recommendations for Changes

The committee recommended that legislation be changed to permit the transfer of unused Conservation Reserve Program funds to the Agricultural Conservation Program for making practice payments for forestry practices.

* for a period of 10 years.

In conclusion the committee wished to convey their appreciation to Mr. Manwaring for his comments on the background, objectives and departmental thinking regarding the Conservation Reserve Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard A. Foster
For the CRP Planning Committee

Howard A. Foster, Chairman
Norman Lowe, Vice Chairman
Charles B. Doane, Secretary

Other Members of the Program Planning Committee

Wayne Fuller, Addison County
Robert Graf, Bennington County
Norman Lowe, Caledonia County
Clarence Burlington, Caledonia County
Ray Collins, Chittenden County
Basil Hill, Essex County
Albert Young, Essex County
Floyd Weld, Franklin County
Jay Haylett, Grand Isle County
Chester Caswell, Grand Isle County
Arthur Stancliff, Lamoille County
Ray Perkins, Lamoille County
Glenn Webster, Orange County
Robert Kilborn, Orleans County
Reginald LeBlanc, Orleans County
George Ridlon, Rutland County
D. Drew Bisbee, Washington County
Everett Walbridge, Washington County
Robert Gaines, Windham County
Raymond Farrar, Windsor County
Wesley Young, Windsor County

Visitors present

Thomas H. Blow
H. L. Manwaring
H. W. Soule
Charles L. Winslow, Sr.
John Stephenson
William Stone
E. N. Blondin

NOTE: This report is based on conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.

OTHER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

State Committee Nominees

We continued this year our State policy of asking the county committeemen at the conference to vote for three farmers as nominees for the next vacancy on the State Committee. The names of these nominees are listed below, in alphabetical order, without regard to the number of votes each received:

Clyde H. Bryant, Bennington County
Norman Lowe, Caledonia County
Raymond Rowley, Chittenden County

Conference Banquet

Our guest speaker this year was H. L. Manwaring, Deputy Administrator for Production Adjustment, Commodity Stabilization Service, USDA, who spoke on the subject of "The Committeeman's Dual Personality," and pointed out that the present National system of rotating State Committee membership is patterned on the policy which has been in use in Vermont for many years.

The toastmaster at this banquet was Robert P. Davison, Director of Extension and ex officio member of the Vermont State ASC Committee. Mr. Davison carried out his duties in an able and interesting manner.

Others at the head table included:

H. W. Soule, Director, Northeast Area, CSS, and Mrs. Soule
Elmer Towne, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Mrs. Towne
Clayton Fish, Master, Vermont State Grange, and Mrs. Fish
Mrs. Robert P. Davison
Charles L. Winslow, Sr., Chairman, State ASC Committee, and
Mrs. Winslow
Edson E. Gifford, State ASC Committeeman, and Mrs. Gifford
Howard A. Foster, State ASC Committeeman, and Mrs. Foster

The toastmaster announced to the group that Governor Robert T. Stafford and Lieutenant Governor Robert S. Babcock had been invited but had sent their regrets due to the pressure of Legislative work and previous commitments.

Stuart Newton, Chairman of the Franklin County ASC Committee, sang two solos which were much enjoyed and then led the group in singing several well-known songs. He was ably accompanied by Mrs. Newton at the piano.

There were 111 at the banquet this year, which was served buffet style from an attractively decorated table with a large centerpiece of fruit and flowers. The beautiful floral arrangement on the head table was presented to Mrs. Winslow in appreciation of her serving as conference hostess.

State Alumni

A special table at the banquet was reserved for State alumni and their wives. This year the following were present:

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Packard, Jericho)	
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Sinclair, Johnson)	State
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Carrigan, South Burlington)	Committee
Mr. Hugh E. Evans, Brattleboro)	
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Blow, St. Johnsbury)	State
Mr. Edward N. Blondin, Burlington)	Office

Visitors from Cooperating Offices

We were pleased that the following representatives of cooperating agencies could attend sessions of the conference:

Perry Merrill, Department of Forests and Parks, Montpelier
A. W. Gottlieb, State Forest Service, Montpelier
Merlin Wells, Agricultural Education Service, Montpelier
Adrian Gilbert, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Burlington
George Dykhuizen, Department of Philosophy, UVM, Burlington

Outstanding County Office Award

Mr. Heald announced at the banquet that Franklin County had been selected as the outstanding county office in 1958, based on performance during the year from August 1, 1957 through July 31, 1958.

He then presented a plaque for the office to Stuart Newton, Chairman of the Franklin County Committee. Individual citations for outstanding service and cash awards were presented as follows:

Avis B. Maynard, County Office Manager, \$50
Viola R. Chaffee, General Clerk, \$25
Stuart Newton, Chairman, County Committee, \$25
Floyd Weld, County Committeeman, \$25
Roland Gervais, County Committeeman, \$25

A certificate of recognition was presented to County Agent R. C. McWilliams honoring his years of service and helpfulness as ex officio member of the Franklin County ASC Committee.

Length-of-Service Awards

Certificates and pins recognizing the length of service of the following county office employees were awarded to the following:

20 years

G. N. Baldwin, Chittenden County
Clyde Bryant, Bennington County
Edson Gifford, Orange County

15 years

Ball Lyons, Bennington County

10 years

W. J. Bisson, Washington County
Howard Kittell, Lamoille County
Norman Love, Caledonia County
E. K. Wright, Caledonia County
Mae Carpenter, Windham County Office Manager
Avis B. Maynard, Franklin County Office Manager

Certificates Awarded

A certificate was presented to Edward N. Blondin, former fieldman at the Vermont State ASC Office, recognizing the completion of 25 years and 8 months of service for the Department of Agriculture, at the time of his retirement December 31, 1957.

A certificate of appreciation for his years of service as Caledonia County Agent and then as Administrative Assistant at the State Office was presented to Thomas H. Blow. This was the first conference which Tom could attend since leaving the State Office as he had been doing agricultural work in Iran and Lebanon until recently.

Outstanding Performance Award

Charles L. Winslow, Sr., Chairman of the State Committee, then presented A. F. Heald, State Administrative Officer, with a Certificate of Merit and a cash award in honor of his sustained outstanding performance during the last rating period.

Awarding of Length-of-Service Pins

During the morning session on the second day of the conference, Mr. Heald announced that several county employees had previously received length-of-service certificates but had not received pins as these became available only recently. He then presented pins to the following:

20 years

Mildred Bell, Essex County Office Manager
John DeVito, Bennington County Office Manager
Dorothy Howard, Chittenden County Office Manager
Hazel Hoyt, Lamoille County Office Manager

15 years

Mildred Murphy, Caledonia County Office Manager

10 years

Chester Caswell, Grand Isle County
Wayne Fuller, Addison County
Lawrence Gregory, Lamoille County
Marjorie Leith, Washington County Office Manager
Louise Rand, Orange County Office Manager

TV Coverage

During the conference a photographer and local news commentator took pictures and interviewed some of those present. These pictures with appropriate remarks were shown over WCAX-TV as part of the day's local news.

Exhibits

Many charts and pictures pertaining to the work of the ASC committeemen in Vermont were displayed in the Roof Garden where the general sessions of the conference were held, and proved interesting to those attending.

Photography

We are again indebted to William Stone, Windsor County Agent, for his kindness and cooperation in taking pictures during the conference sessions. His excellent photographic work provides us with a more complete conference record than would otherwise be possible.

Special Session for County Office Managers

A special session for county office managers was held in the Apple Orchard on the first afternoon of the conference. Representatives of the State Office staff attended and the afternoon was spent in discussion of various problems which arise in connection with the administration of the several programs operating in Vermont.

A separate report of this session will be issued to county office managers for their reference.

